

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 **1.** A method for allowing arbitrary protocols to be added or plugged into a middleware based application without accessing the source code for the middleware or producing a new version of the middleware source code, comprising the steps of:

 providing a connection bridge for communicating
10 between the protocols and the middleware;

 said connection bridge obtaining action requests from at least one protocol including a protocol connection identifier;

 said connection bridge notifying said middleware that an action request is ready to have an action performed; and

15 said connection bridge transferring said protocol connection identifier to said middleware.

- 2.** The method of claim 1, wherein said protocol does not use the same O/S primitives as any existing internal middleware protocol.

3. The method of claim 1 including said connection bridge communicating with multiple protocol instances and different types of protocols.

4. The method of claim 1 including said connection
5 bridge replacing the existing internally supported protocols of the middleware.

5. The method of claim 1, further including performing said steps in an object-oriented programming language.

6. The method of claim 1, including implementing
10 said connection bridge by utilizing a synchronization primitive and FIFO queue.

7. The method of claim 1, including implementing said connection bridge by utilizing the select O/S primitive.